IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A vehicle door outer handle system comprising:

an operating handle comprising a handle main body made of a synthetic resin and a cover made of a synthetic resin so as to cover the outer side of the handle main body, the operating handle being disposed on an outer side of a vehicle door;

a pair of electrodes; and

a circuit board formed of a single plate and on which is provided a detection circuit for detecting a change in capacitance between the electrodes,

wherein, among opposite faces of the circuit board, a component of the detection circuit is mounted on the face of the circuit board that is opposite to the face of the circuit board where the electrodes are patterned,

wherein the electrodes, the circuit board and a ground plate are housed within the operating handle,

wherein the electrodes are covered by the ground plate ~~and are patterned on the circuit board~~, and

wherein a covering portion made of synthetic resin covers the ground plate and is also disposed between the ground plate and the electrodes.

Claim 2 **(Canceled)**.

3. **(Previously presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 1, wherein, among opposite faces of the circuit board, the electrodes are patterned on the face on the vehicle side.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 1, wherein a sensor unit comprising the electrodes, the circuit board, and the covering portion made of a synthetic resin and covering the electrodes and the circuit board is fixedly housed in a housing recess formed in the handle main body so as to open on the cover side.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 4, wherein the electrodes and the circuit board are mounted on a holder, a majority of the holder being covered by the covering portion so as to form a part of the sensor unit.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 5, wherein the ground plate forms a part of the sensor unit and is mounted on the holder.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 5, wherein a portion of the holder projecting from the covering portion is mounted on a mounting seat provided on the handle main body.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 4, wherein the electrodes and the circuit board are mounted on a holder, and a portion of the holder projects from the covering portion and is mounted on the mounting seat provided on the handle main body.